

Army to Begin Ordnance and Explosives Cleanup on Ranges 43-48

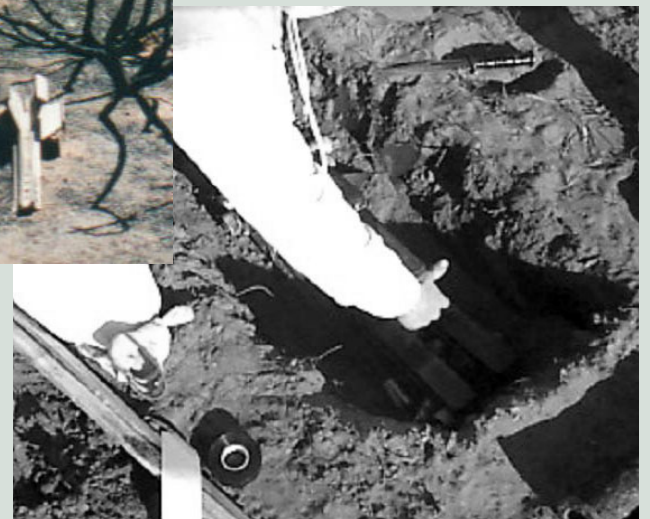


Directorate of Environmental and Natural Resources Management

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Cleanup Will Begin With a Prescribed Burn This Fall



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Army to Begin Ordnance & Explosives Cleanup on Ranges 43-48

Cleanup Will Begin With a Prescribed Burn This Fall

What Has Been Decided?

The U.S. Army—after extensive public comment and with the concurrence of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)—has announced it will begin the cleanup this fall of ordnance and explosives on firing ranges known as Ranges 43-48 at the former Fort Ord. The Army will start work next year on sites known as Range 30A and OE-16. The State of California, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) had an opportunity to review and comment on the Interim Action Record of Decision and their concerns were addressed.

The agencies have concluded that the Army's interim program is protective of human health and the environment, and complies with federal and state requirements. The Army, EPA, and DTSC have also concluded that, because of the proximity to homes and schools, and the sensitivity of the particular items, the unexploded ordnance and explosives on Ranges 43-48, Range 30A, and OE-16 are an imminent threat. The current cleanup is being done as an "interim action" to remove this threat. The Army might have to do further work on these sites later based on a study of Fort Ord's overall ordnance and explosives cleanup program that will be completed in 2005.

The cleanup will begin with a prescribed burn—a carefully managed fire—of Ranges 43-48. The prescribed burn will burn-off brush and other vegetation so that cleanup workers can see ordnance and explosives on the ground, and avoid stepping on them. Some of the ordnance and explosives is extremely sensitive, so cleanup workers could set these items off by walking on or near them. If triggered, they could kill or maim.

In fact, the primary reason the Army is conducting the cleanup is to protect children and other trespassers who might trespass on the land. Presently the land is heavily fenced and there are warning signs, but there is a history of trespassing. The land is near both residences and schools.

Once the vegetation has been cleared, the Army will use sophisticated detection equipment to find the ordnance and explosives. Most of the ordnance and explosives are located in the top foot of the sandy soil, but the goal of the program is to detect and remove any ordnance or explosives in the top several feet of soil. The agencies have concluded that it is unlikely that the kinds of ordnance and explosives used on these training ranges would be located deeper than that. Because of the technical limits of existing detection equipment, the Army cannot guarantee that every piece will be located. So

after the cleanup, the Army will put a program in place to ensure that future uses of the land will be safe.

It is not safe to move most of the unexploded ordnance and explosives, so when the Army finds these items it will cover these items with tamped dirt, sandbags, containers filled with water, or other materials and then blow them up, in place, using explosive charges.

Ranges 43-48 cover approximately 483 acres. Twenty-five acres of the land will be available for development, but the remainder of the land will be managed as a habitat reserve.

The Army's decision is discussed in detail in a Record of Decision that was published in mid-September.

Who Made the Decision and How?

The lead agency (the Army) must comply with a law known as CERCLA (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act) (also referred to as 'Superfund'), and amendments to CERCLA that are known as SARA (the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act). Under this law, the Army must go through a process that evaluates each alternative cleanup method, permits public comment on the alternatives, and considers the protection of human health and the environment. This evaluation is detailed in a document called the "Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study."

The Army is also preparing an overall Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study that will cover all ordnance and explosives cleanup on the former Fort Ord. But this document will not be finished for at least three more years. The law permits agencies to take interim actions if

there is an imminent threat to the public. The Army, EPA, and DTSC have concluded that, because of the proximity to homes and schools, and the sensitivity of the particular items on these ranges, the unexploded ordnance and explosives on Ranges 43-48, Range 30A, and OE-16 are an imminent threat.

The Army published the Final Interim Action Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study on March 7, 2002. The Proposed Plan was issued for public review on March 8, 2002, and the Record of Decision is now available at www.FortOrdCleanup.com.

The Record of Decision describes the decision that was made and the alternatives that were considered. The Record of Decision also summarizes the written and oral comments received from the public, and gives the Army's response to these comments. The Record of Decision was signed by the Army and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control had an opportunity to review and comment on the ROD and their concerns were addressed.

This Community Bulletin summarizes much of the information in the Record of Decision, however, you may review the official document at any one of the Information Repositories located in Seaside, Ord Military Community and CSUMB libraries. In addition, you may download or view the document from the Fort Ord Cleanup website at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. For additional information please contact the Fort Ord Cleanup Community Relations Office at (831) 393-9186 or 1-800-852-9699.

With the publication of these documents, the Army can now proceed with the cleanup on those parcels discussed in the interim document.

Road Closure

Portions of General Jim Moore Boulevard will be closed during Ranges 43-48 Prescribed Burn

General Jim Moore Boulevard will be closed the day of the Ranges 43-48 prescribed burn to ensure that fire control equipment can move about safely and quickly. General Jim Moore Boulevard will be closed from Highway 218 (Canyon Del Rey) to Coe Avenue. During this time you will not be able to enter the former Fort Ord from either Canyon Del Rey or Broadway Avenue.

What Alternatives Were Considered?

Community Bulletins #2 and #3, sent to the community in November 2001 and March 2002 respectively, provided a full description of the alternatives, and the Army's evaluation of the alternatives. But here is a quick summary:

Step

1

Alternative Methods of Vegetation Clearance

The principle alternatives for clearing vegetation were (1) prescribed burns; (2) hand or mechanical clearance; and (3) no action, e.g. don't do any cleanup, leaving the land fenced in and unavailable for public use.

- ◆ The "no action" alternative was used primarily as a baseline for measuring impacts. "No action" doesn't solve the problem.
- ◆ The Army concluded that it was unsafe to use hand or mechanical clearing on these sites because, if cleanup workers cannot see the ground, they would be in danger of accidentally setting off explosives, and could be killed or maimed. In addition, vegetation that was mechanically cleared would fall to the ground, further obscuring any unexploded ordnance or explosives. Finally, the habitat that grows on much of this land contains plant and animal species that are considered rare, endangered, or threatened. This habitat is restored by fire, but does not grow back well if it is cut.
- ◆ The principle drawback of prescribed burns is that smoke from the fire could be a nuisance to neighbors, and could pose a health risk to people with respiratory or immune-system ailments. The Army is offering to pay reasonable costs to temporarily relocate people who wish to leave the area for the several days that smoke might be in the air. [see pullout beginning on page 5]

Step

2

Remedial Action (Removal) Alternatives

The Remedial Action (or "removal") alternatives were:

- ◆ No action—leave the ordnance and explosives in place, with existing fencing and other security measures.
- ◆ Increase site security—leave the ordnance and explosives in place, but enhance security measures.
- ◆ Remove the ordnance and explosives.

The Army concluded, and the environmental regulatory agencies agreed, that as long as the ordnance and explosives are there, they continue to pose a threat. For some people, particularly children, security measures simply increase the sense of challenge to trespass. As a result, the Army concluded that neither the "no action" or "enhanced site security" alternatives was a satisfactory solution.

Step

3

Detonation Alternatives

The detonation alternatives—how to handle unexploded ordnance and explosives when they are found—were: (1) no action; (2) detonation in place with engineering controls; and (3) transport to a detonation chamber, where they would be detonated.

- ◆ Once again, the no-action alternative is only a baseline not a real alternative. There's no point in going to all the effort of locating these materials, then leaving them in place.
- ◆ The primary advantages of a detonation chamber are that using a detonation chamber would reduce noise, air emissions, and fire danger. But the Army has concluded that it would be unsafe to move 80 to 95 percent of the ordnance and explosives items it finds. So the detonation chamber would have minimal use.
- ◆ The Army will detonate the items in place, but will cover the items with dirt, sandbags, or other material to reduce fragmentation, noise, and air emissions. The agencies have concluded that the air emissions from these detonations are too small to pose a health risk.

How Was the Public Consulted?

The box below shows the public process that was followed to inform and involve the community. This extensive program was implemented to ensure that the community had a full opportunity to participate in this decision making process.

Community Involvement Process

Here are the major events in the community involvement process that preceded the Army's decision.

- ◆ Community Bulletin #1, describing the issue and possible approaches, was sent to approximately 50,000 households in the Monterey Bay area in September 2001.
- ◆ Environmental Cleanup Symposium #1, on September 19, 2001, provided a briefing for the community by all the involved agencies on issues such as the need for cleanup, air emissions, and fire safety. Several reporters served as a panel, questioning the agencies' representatives, and the public had an opportunity to ask questions.
- ◆ The Draft Interim Action Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (IA RI/FS) was made available for public review from October 23, 2001 to December 7, 2001.
- ◆ Community Bulletin #2 was sent to approximately 50,000 households and contained a discussion of why some alternatives were being dropped from further consideration, and the preliminary results of a study of air emissions resulting from incidental detonation of ordnance and explosives during a prescribed burn.
- ◆ Environmental Cleanup Symposium #2 focused on the results from a study on the air emissions resulting from incidental detonation of ordnance and explosives during a prescribed burn, and the fire and smoke management approach that would be taken. Once again, several reporters served as a panel, questioning the agencies, and the public had an opportunity to ask questions and provide written comments on the Draft IA RI/FS.
- ◆ A Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup Open House on January 12, 2002, included displays on the proposed interim action. Members of the public were encouraged to ask questions and submit comments once the public review period began on January 18, 2002 for the Draft Final IA RI/FS.
- ◆ The Draft Final IA RI/FS was made available for public review from January 18, 2002 to February 17, 2002.
- ◆ A Community Involvement Workshop on February 5, 2002 focused on the proposed action plan and the public was invited to submit comments on the Draft Final IA RI/FS.
- ◆ A meeting of the Technical Review Committee (which consists of representatives of various local agencies) discussed the proposed interim action in a February 7, 2002 meeting.
- ◆ The public was notified of a 30-day comment period on the Proposed Plan. At the request of the community, the comment period was extended to 60 days, ending on May 13, 2002.
- ◆ Community Bulletin #3 was sent to approximately 50,000 households in March 2002. This bulletin presented a summary of the Army's Proposed Plan, and final results of the air emissions study. The public was invited to submit written comments and/or attend public meetings.
- ◆ Public meetings were held on March 25 and 26, 2002 in Seaside and Spreckels.
- ◆ The Technical Review Committee met on May 9, 2002 and discussed the proposed plan.
- ◆ The Army, EPA and DTSC had numerous individual meetings or meetings with interested groups during the March-April time period.
- ◆ Comments were also submitted directly to the Fort Ord Cleanup Program website at www.FortOrdCleanup.com.
- ◆ The Army has just published a Record of Decision, now available at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. The Record of Decision summarizes the selected cleanup alternatives and the Army's responses to the public comments on the Proposed Plan.

What Did the Public Say About the Proposed Plan?

The Army received many comments from the public. A majority of these comments encouraged the Army to go ahead with the cleanup program on Ranges 43-48, Range 30A and OE-16. Many of these comments expressed frustration with the amount of time the cleanup program is taking, and encouraged the Army to speed up its cleanup program. Many individuals commented on the public value of the land once it is cleaned up. Others encouraged the Army to proceed with the cleanup as a safety priority.

Some citizens continue to oppose the Army's plan. These individuals were particularly concerned about the health impacts of smoke upon the general public, and the possibility of prescribed burns getting out of control. They also had numerous questions about the Army's relocation plan, and procedural issues.

Residents Guide to Voluntary Relocation During a Prescribed Burn

Beginning in Fall 2002, the U.S. Army Presidio of Monterey will conduct prescribed burns—carefully controlled fires—on land at the former Fort Ord. These fires will usually last one day, but smoke could be in the air for several days after that. If you are sensitive to smoke, you can ask us to relocate you temporarily during these prescribed burns. This pamphlet describes how the relocation program works.

What is a prescribed burn and why is it needed?

A prescribed burn is a fire that is ignited to burn off vegetation on a particular piece of land. The Army will use prescribed burns to burn off brush so the Army can safely remove unexploded ordnance and explosives. This unexploded ordnance and explosives was left over from when the Army used Fort Ord to train soldiers to fire artillery and use explosives. Hundreds of thousands of rounds of artillery and rockets were fired while Fort Ord was a training center. Some of the shells didn't explode. So they still remain on the ground, particularly in former firing ranges.

The Army wants to clean up this land before someone trespasses on the land and is killed or seriously injured. But the land is covered with brush. Before it is safe for cleanup workers to enter the land, the Army has to burn off the brush. Cleanup workers will then be able see the ground and can avoid stepping on something explosive.

Once the land is cleaned up, the Army will turn it over to other agencies to manage. When the cleanup is over, some of Fort Ord will be developed, but more than half of the area will be open space. In fact, the former Fort Ord will become the largest park in Monterey County.

The Army will start the prescribed burn when the weather conditions will allow the smoke to rise quickly and blow away at high altitudes. The Army's experts believe this will mean very little smoke will reach Fort Ord's neighbors. But it is hard to predict how wind conditions could change during the day. Based on past fires at Fort Ord, smoke is most likely to reach Fort Ord's neighbors to the east or southeast. This is because in the Monterey area the wind usually blows inland from the ocean.

Why would I want to relocate?

Although the Army is doing all it can to reduce the amount of smoke, some people could have health problems from exposure to smoke. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) encourages people to avoid breathing smoke from prescribed burns. In a recent fact sheet the agency stated:

"Healthy adults are not usually at a major risk, but people with heart or lung diseases, such as congestive heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema or asthma can be at risk. Children and the elderly are also more susceptible to the harmful effects of smoke."

The Air Resources Board says the most likely symptoms for anyone who is impacted by smoke are "symptoms similar to that of a cold or allergy, including a scratchy throat, cough, irritated sinuses, headaches, running nose, and stinging eyes." The CARB also states that: "People with lung diseases, such as asthma or bronchitis, may find it difficult to breathe, may cough, or feel short of breath."

The CARB says that "healthy adults generally find that their symptoms (runny noses, coughing, etc.) subside after the smoke is gone." If symptoms persist, people should consult their physicians.

Prescribed burns and wildfires are a frequent occurrence in California, and in Monterey County. Prior to 1994, fires at Fort Ord, whether prescribed burns or fires set off accidentally by firing of ordnance or explosives, were a normal occurrence. People who lived near Fort Ord during that time were exposed to fires as large as those that are currently planned, often under climatic conditions that were far less than ideal.

If you believe smoke could be bad for you, the Army will assist you to relocate out of the area during the time the smoke is in the air. If you are not certain whether relocation is necessary, speak with a physician or other health professional.

What does relocation mean?

You can move yourself and your family members to stay with relatives or friends or you can stay in a hotel or motel for several days until all the smoke has blown away. The Army has made arrangements to provide meals, food, lodging, and special requirements for people who choose to relocate.

Who qualifies for relocation?

This is a voluntary program open to residents of Monterey County. No one is required to relocate.

The Army will require proof of Monterey County residency and the head of household will be asked to sign a statement saying that he or she is a U.S. citizen or legal alien. Under U.S. law, any member of the household (including a child) who is a U.S. citizen can be considered to be the head of household. So if any child is a U.S. citizen, the Army can relocate other family members who are not citizens as well.

If you would like to temporarily relocate, contact the Army regardless of your citizenship or resident status. The Army will refer anyone who cannot meet federal citizenship or residence requirements to the Monterey Chapter of the American Red

Residents Guide to Voluntary Relocation During a Prescribed Burn

Cross. The Red Cross does not require any statement regarding citizenship or immigrant status.

The Army will serve as the clearinghouse for these services, so make your application directly to the Army.

How do I qualify for relocation?

Call the Army at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699. You will need to fill out some paperwork before the Army can pay relocation expenses. We will help you fill out the forms. Fill out the forms BEFORE the Army announces the date for a prescribed burn, to avoid delays in getting relocation approved. If you fill out the paperwork but then decide you don't want to relocate for a particular burn, that's OK.

What if I don't relocate and then I have health problems during a prescribed burn?

If you begin to have health problems during a prescribed burn, call your health provider or call 911. Individuals who do not have medical insurance should still request medical treatment. Government programs are available to cover emergency medical treatment for low-income people.

If individuals choose not to relocate, but experience health difficulties during a prescribed burn and wish to be relocated, they can call the Army at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699 or the American Red Cross at (831) 424-4824. Both organizations will provide temporary lodging, meals, and transportation. The Army will require proof of Monterey County residency and the head of household will need to sign a statement saying that he or she is a U.S. Citizen or legal alien. The Red Cross does not require proof of residency nor any statement regarding citizenship or immigrant status.

How will I be notified before the prescribed burn?

After you complete the application for relocation benefits, you will be put on a notification list. The Army will contact you, and at that time you can let the Army know the best way to contact you, whether by email, phone, or regular mail. It is your responsibility to keep the Army informed about how to contact you. So if you move, or your phone number changes, it is your responsibility to tell the Army about that.

The Army will not know exactly on which day the prescribed burn will occur, because it depends on weather conditions. The Army will try to give you a week's notice that a burn could occur, but it might be only 3-4 days. Otherwise the Army could be giving you a number of false alarms. The Army will only make one effort to contact you, using the method you specified, so be sure to keep the Army updated about any changes in address, phone numbers, or email address.

Once you get this notice you need to do two things: (1) Let the Army know for sure whether you plan to relocate; and (2) check in daily on the hotline (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699 or check the web site (www.FortOrdCleanup.com) to get daily updates.

The final decision to go ahead with a burn, or postpone it, is made first thing in the morning, after the wind conditions are known. So you will need to relocate the afternoon before the burn. There will not be time to notify you to relocate the day of the burn. If the Army tells you about a burn and you relocate, but then the Army decides not to light the burn because of wind conditions, the Army will pay your expenses until you are told to return.

If you are not sure whether a burn is scheduled, call the hotline at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699 for the latest information on the burn schedule.

How long will I be away from my home?

You'll be away from home three nights, beginning the night before the burn. If there is still too much smoke in the air, the Army may extend the relocation period. Of course you can return to your home anytime, since your relocation is voluntary. But if you do come home, the Army will stop paying your expenses. You can also stay away longer, but the Army will only reimburse you for your relocation expenses during the "official" relocation period.

What should I do about my pets and houseplants?

You will need to make arrangements for your pets and for your houseplants. Speak with your neighbors, friends, or relatives, who may be able to care for your pets or plants during your temporary relocation. If this doesn't work, an Army representative will help you arrange to place your pets (except fish) in a kennel. The Army will pay for this. Some hotels will accept small pets. Be sure to discuss your needs with an Army representative when you register for relocation.

How do I move?

The Army will pay transportation costs to relocate. Normally you would use your personal auto to move members of your household and the personal belongings and medications necessary for three nights. If you don't have a car, ask a friend or relative to help. If none of those options works for you, call the hotline so that other arrangements can be made.

The Army will reimburse transportation costs from homes to the place where people are relocating, and back again, at a standard federal mileage rate. The 2002 rate is 36.5 cents per mile. The total mileage that will be reimbursed is a maximum of 150 miles, unless special arrangements are approved during an interview that will occur after your relocation application has been submitted.

Residents Guide to Voluntary Relocation During a Prescribed Burn

Where will I be relocated?

You can stay with a relative or friend or you can stay in a motel or hotel.

If you choose to stay in a motel or hotel provided by the Army, the Army has made arrangements so your lodging costs will be billed directly to the government. The Army will make arrangements with motels in northern Monterey County in areas it believes will be upwind of the smoke, as well as motels in southern Santa Clara County (for example, in Castroville, Gilroy or Morgan Hill) or in Santa Cruz.

If you choose to make your own arrangements, the Army will reimburse you for your room up to the limit that applies to all government travel. The limit in Monterey is \$75 per night per family from November to April, and \$94 per night per family from May through October (because of tourist season). These are the 2002 rates. These figures change each year.

When you stay any place other than the motels arranged for by the Army, you would pay the motel directly, then receive reimbursement from the Army. You must obtain the approval of the Army before you make any commitments at other motels or with relatives or friends.

If you choose to stay with relatives or friends, you will not be reimbursed for lodging, but you will still receive money for meals.

When you fill out the forms requesting relocation assistance, an Army representative will talk with you to discuss any special needs you may have.

What will I receive for meals?

People who are relocated by the Army will receive a daily meal allowance based on a limit established for the Monterey area. This is the same limit paid to all Federal employees—for all agencies, military and non-military—when they travel in the Monterey area. The limit for 2002 is \$46 a day for adults. Children under 12 receive 50% of the adult daily rate (\$23). These limits are adjusted each year, based on surveys of costs for meals in the Monterey area. If people travel only part of a day, the daily rates for meal reimbursement rates are prorated based on the portion of the day that was traveled.

Do I have to spend my own money for meals?

You can either spend your own money then be reimbursed the daily allowance for food, or you can receive food vouchers that will pay for your meals. These vouchers can only be used at certain specified restaurants at which the Army has arranged payment based on vouchers. The list of restaurants where vouchers can be used will be made

available to you before each relocation period. Individuals who wish to receive vouchers should request them when they complete their application for relocation.

What if I have special requirements?

You may request reimbursement or ask that arrangements be made to meet special requirements such as moving bed-ridden people, moving medical equipment, moving or kenneling pets. Under some circumstances, home security during the time away may also be appropriate. These special requirements must be identified when you initially request relocation. The Army must pre-approve expenditures for special requirements.

Which of my expenses will not be covered?

The Army will not pay your rent, mortgage, or the utilities on your home during your temporary relocation. These payments are not considered to be additional costs caused by your relocation, even though you will not be living in your home.

Federal law does not allow the Army to pay for lost wages, or for leave that is lost, during relocation. You need to consider this when you decide whether to relocate.

Expenses for which you will NOT be reimbursed include:

- Expenses other than meals and lodging that the Army has not approved in advance;
- Damage caused by pets;
- Damage that you, your family, or your guests cause to your temporary housing, its furniture, or recreation equipment;
- The cost of temporary housing beyond the date on which your temporary relocation period ends;
- Expenses related to accidents, injuries, or illnesses that you may experience during your temporary relocation period;
- If you are housed in a motel or hotel, any charges to your room other than lodging (such as room service or other food, beverages, telephone charges, video rentals, pay-per-view television programs, damages to the hotel, etc.);
- Expenses for searching for temporary housing; and
- Duplicate benefits—expenses that have already been paid by someone else, such as a social welfare agency.

Residents Guide to Voluntary Relocation During a Prescribed Burn

How will I be reimbursed for approved costs that I pay out of my own pocket?

Keep all your receipts to show your expenses. Upon your return you will need to fill out a reimbursement request form. Call the Army hotline at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699, and we can help you fill out the form. Approximately 30 days after the form has been completed and approved, you will receive a U.S. Treasury check made out to the person designated as the head of your household.

How will I be notified that relocation is over?

You will be responsible to call the hotline at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699, or check the web page (at www.FortordCleanup.com), daily during relocation. There will be announcements in both English and Spanish telling you when relocation will end. However, you can plan on three nights/four days of relocation if the burn occurs as planned.

What other responsibilities do I have while I am receiving this assistance?

Your responsibilities include:

- Keeping your receipts, so you can be reimbursed for any approved costs that you pay out of your own pocket.
- Helping the Army determine the types of assistance that you and the other members of your household will require by providing the information that is requested at the time that you are interviewed by an Army representative;
- Informing the Army about any special needs (for example, arrangements for pets and medical problems or disabilities of members of your household);
- If you are staying at a motel, keeping any rules made by the motel, as well as obeying the normal rules of courtesy at a motel;
- Making arrangements on your own for transportation to work, to the post office, and to medical or other appointments;
- Taking care of your temporary residence;
- Leaving your temporary residence when the prescribed burn is completed; and
- Keeping the Army notified about where you can be reached.

What happens when the prescribed burn is over?

If your temporary housing is in a hotel or motel, the checkout time is posted in your room, or the clerk at the front desk can give you this information. Be sure to check out by this time or you could be charged for another day's lodging.

When you leave the hotel or motel, you must check out by going to the main desk and informing the clerk that you are checking out. At that time, you will have to pay all bills for services other than the cost of your room. If you are staying in a motel or hotel other than those assigned by the Army, you will also need to pay for your lodging. Be sure to keep your receipt so you can get reimbursed.

What if I am asked to leave my temporary housing before the relocation is over?

If the manager of your temporary housing determines that you or other members of your household are not following the rules of that housing, you may be asked to leave.

If—as a result of breaking rules or regulations—you are asked to leave the temporary housing that the Army arranged for you, the Army WILL NOT move you a second time. Your relocation assistance may be terminated, and you may have to find and pay for temporary housing on your own.

Reasons for terminating relocation assistance include, but are not limited to the following:

- Failure to take care of your temporary housing;
- Failure to comply with hotel or motel rules;
- Failure to pay charges for which you are liable;
- Misrepresentation or fraud;
- Criminal activities;
- Failure to vacate your primary residence after being provided relocation assistance.

Who do I call if I have questions?

Call the hotline at (831) 242-7383 or 1-800-852-9699.

What was the Army's Response to Public Comments?

The Army has responded to each of the issues raised by the public comments in the Record of Decision. This document is available on the Fort Ord Cleanup program website at www.FortordCleanup.com, by calling the Fort Ord Cleanup Community Relations Office at (831) 393-9186 or 1-800-852-9699, or can be viewed at the information repositories in the Community Relations Office and the Seaside, Ord Military Community and CSUMB libraries.

Here is a brief summary of the Army's response to three of the major issues:

Health Impacts from Air Emissions

The Army, in consultation with environmental and air quality regulatory agencies, conducted a study to determine if the emissions from a prescribed burn on Ranges 43-48 (where some of the highest concentrations of ordnance and explosives are found) would be significantly different than a prescribed burn or wildfire on comparable land. A prescribed burn will, as a side effect, detonate a certain percentage of unexploded ordnance and explosives, putting emissions into the air.

Based on this study, the agencies concluded that the quantity of pollutants put into the air from incidental detonation of ordnance and explosives was so small in comparison to the emissions from the smoke alone that they were insignificant. They were also well below health-protective regulatory screening levels.

This means that a prescribed burn at Fort Ord is basically no different than any other prescribed burn in Monterey County. Prescribed burns are frequently used by ranchers and farmers, and are also a standard management tool for forest and land management agencies. Until 1994, fires at Fort Ord were a frequent occurrence, often set off accidentally during training when trainees were firing artillery or using explosives. From 1994-1998, Fort Ord used prescribed burns as part of its cleanup program. The prescribed burns that will occur this fall are not any different, except that considerably more work has gone into both smoke and fire management, to ensure that the community is protected.

Some citizens have complained that the agencies' studies of air emissions are based on computer modeling, rather than actual measurements from a fire. So the Army has developed a monitoring program to measure the air emissions during the upcoming prescribed burn at Ranges 43-48. This plan is described in the Air Sampling and Analysis Plan that is available for the public to review in the Administrative Record and on the Fort Ord web site at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. Because the amount of unexploded ordnance and explosives on Ranges 43-48 is very dense, monitoring of this

prescribed burn may provide a "worst-case" scenario for making decisions about future prescribed burns.

The purpose of the air monitoring program is to detect and measure air emissions resulting from incidental detonation of unexploded ordnance or explosives. The monitoring program will also help determine how much smoke blows downwind during the fire, and where. Based on this, the Army will learn if changes may be needed in the way it conducts future prescribed burns to reduce impacts even further.

The best indicators of smoke density are the amounts of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and particulate matter in the air. The concentrations of these substances will be measured by equipment that provides "real-time" (immediate) results. However, some constituents in smoke cannot be measured "real-time." These constituents are measured using highly sensitive equipment that collects samples that must be sent to a laboratory for testing. The results from these tests won't be available until several weeks after the fire. Therefore, the results won't be ready for several weeks for (1) aldehydes (an eye and nose irritant sometimes present in vegetation smoke), (2) energetic analytes (substances that would not be present in burning only vegetation), and (3) very small particles of metal, and dioxins and furans (pollutants that could be produced from either vegetation burning or from incidental detonation of unexploded ordnance or explosives).

The location of the highest concentrations in the air may vary as atmospheric conditions change throughout the day. The Army will collect air samples at several predetermined downwind locations (the areas where the smoke is expected to blow). But there will also be one or more mobile instruments that will be moved to the area where the smoke plume appears to be the densest during the fire.

Monitoring for all pollutants will also be conducted the day before the burn. The reason for this is that some amounts of many contaminants being measured are constantly in the air around urban areas. The measurements from this pre-burn monitoring will be used to assess the concentrations of those contaminants that are already in the air from sources other than the prescribed burn. The difference between the pre-burn monitoring and the readings at the downwind units on the day of the burn will provide a clearer picture of what contaminants were put in the air by the prescribed burn.

Measurements will be collected at 1-2 meters above ground level. This is approximately the height of people who would breathe the smoke.

The regulatory agencies have established "health-protective screening levels" for contaminants. Concentrations of contaminants below

these screening levels are not considered harmful to the public. If there are concentrations of contaminants that equal or exceed the screening level, then a more detailed health risk assessment must be made to determine whether public health is protected. This could result in modifications to future prescribed burn operations.

Smoke Control

The Army is working closely with the regulatory agencies to develop a program to minimize the amount of smoke that would result from the prescribed burn. The plan is to light the fire on the morning of a clear day with minimal wind. The fire will be ignited in such a way that the smoke will quickly rise to high altitudes and will disperse at that elevation, rather than near the ground where smoke affects people. The fire will be completed in one day, but smoke could be in the air for several days after that.

The Army recognizes that if things don't go as planned and people are exposed to significant amounts of smoke, it could pose a health risk, particularly to people with respiratory problems. The Army has agreed to relocate people who want to be out of the area during the prescribed burn. The Army's relocation plan is described in the Residents Guide beginning on page five of this Bulletin.

Fire Control

The Army has committed to a highly advanced fire control program, using the best available technology and equipment. This program is a considerable step up from prior fire management programs at Fort Ord.

Fire Stop, the firm retained by the Army to conduct the prescribed burn, has prepared a draft plan to conduct a prescribed burn on Ranges 43-48. The burn plan looks at specific site conditions and discusses the staff, organization and equipment required to conduct a safe burn. It also describes the "prescription" for how the fire would be ignited, and under what atmospheric conditions. The draft plan was reviewed by a number of local and state fire organizations to ensure it is fully adequate.

The Army has already created "defensible polygons"—small areas surrounded by existing roads—throughout the 8,000-acre Multi-Range Area (which includes Ranges 43-48). The areas alongside these roads have been cleared, providing a 45-foot wide firebreak. Before the fire, the fire control team will be certain that the roadways and fuel breaks around the perimeter are clear of vegetation. In addition, the team will treat a strip 100 feet wide outwards from the containment roads with fire retardant.

The fire will be controlled using helicopters and air tankers. Firefighters cannot be on the roads surrounding the burn once the fire has started, because they could be exposed to fragments of explosives detonated by the fire. Except in a few places where terrain provides protection, firefighters on the ground will remain at least 1,700 feet from the boundary of the fire, based on estimates of the maximum distance that a projectile set off by the fire could fly.

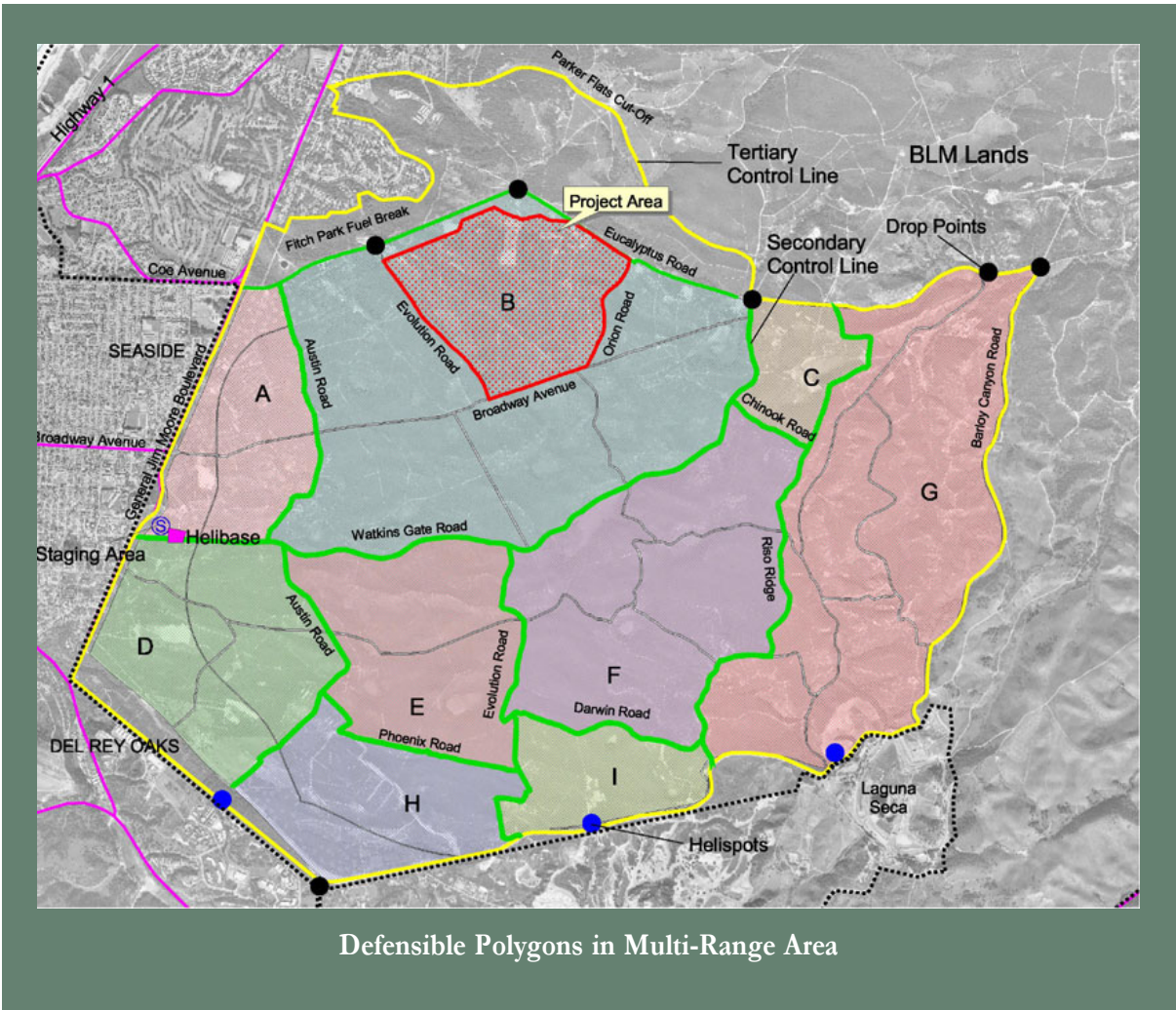
On the day of the fire, the first step will be to light a small test burn. This is a way to make certain that the vegetation burns as expected, and that the atmospheric conditions are within the desired range.

If the test burn goes as planned, two helicopters will ignite the fire from the air, starting at the outer edges of the area to be burned so that the fire burns towards the center. A third helicopter, also capable of igniting a fire, will also be in the air during ignition so it can be dispatched to any areas that need additional ignition. Once the fire is started, all three of these helicopters will be converted to assist with fire suppression.

There will be three additional helicopters for fire suppression only. In addition, two air tankers that can rapidly transport large quantities of water will be stationed at the Marina Airport, just a minute or two away.

The entire operation will be supervised from two command helicopters. The Air Ignition Specialist/Air Attack Supervisor will be in one helicopter, and the Incident Commander/ Fire Boss will be in the other, providing overall management of the fire. They will be in communication with a Fire Weather Meteorologist/ Smoke Specialist and Fire Behavior Analyst, who will be tracking the fire and weather conditions moment by moment. A Holding Group Supervisor, on the ground, will be responsible for pretreatment of the site, and will supervise the fire suppression forces on the ground.

The helicopters are equipped with infrared technology that allows the team to “look through” the smoke and detect any fires that start outside the containment area. Any spot fires outside the burn area can be quickly identified



using infrared and video surveillance. They can then be quickly extinguished with foam or water from the helicopters or tankers. The infrared technology, because it can see through the smoke, also permits the Incident Commander to adjust the location where the foam or water is being delivered.

Three fire engines will be stationed at the Fitch Park housing as a safety precaution. Fire Stop will provide an additional task force of fire engines and bulldozers that can be deployed in any areas free of unexploded ordnance at the direction of the Incident Commander.

During Symposium #2, a panel of local fire chiefs discussed the fire management program at Ford Ord. George Haines, the Assistant Chief of Operations for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, made this comment:

“When I got into the fire service, we were doing controlled burns and working with ranchers and farmers. We’d go out there and look at the conditions and say: “Oh, yeah, the wind is blowing ok, it’s a little warm and it hasn’t rained.” Then we’d light the match and watch it go. So it’s incredible all the technology that I’ve seen here today [in the presentation by the Army’s fire management consultants]. Everybody is trying to make sure that all the right contingencies are being addressed to keep the community and the environment from being impacted. It’s really striking how incredibly different things are than just 10 years ago.”

What Conclusions did the Army Draw from the Public Comment?

On the basis of the written and verbal comments received, the Army has concluded that the public generally accepts the Proposed Plan, although some citizens continue to oppose the plan. The Army recognizes that there are community concerns about smoke, air emissions, and fire control, and has developed detailed plans that include precautions the Army will take to minimize impacts to the public during prescribed burning and ordnance and explosives cleanup.

Put Your Name On Our Mailing List

To receive future information about Fort Ord cleanup plans and activities, please clip and return this coupon to Community Relations Office, Environmental and Natural Resources Management, P.O. Box 5004, Presidio of Monterey, CA 93944-5004, or fax to 831-393-9188. You can also contact us via email at: cqc@redshift.com to be placed on the community relations mailing list.

(please print or type)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email (optional): _____

Special interests:

- ☐ Groundwater Contamination
- ☐ Ordnance & Explosives Cleanup
- ☐ Habitat Preservation
- ☐ Property Transfer
- ☐ Prescribed Burning
- ☐ Other: _____

A Summary of What You'll Find Inside...

- ◆ In response to community concerns, the Army has developed detailed plans to minimize smoke and control the fire.
- ◆ The Army, working with regulatory agencies, has conducted a study of probable air emissions from a fire on Ranges 43-48. Based on this study, the agencies have concluded that a fire at Fort Ord is essentially no different than a prescribed burn on any land with comparable vegetation. All emissions from incidental detonation of ordnance or explosives are much lower than health protective regulatory screening levels.
- ◆ Every effort is being made to minimize the amount of smoke that neighbors will breathe. Exposure to smoke does pose health risks, especially to people with respiratory diseases or congestive heart disease.
- ◆ The Army will relocate any residents of Monterey County who wish to be out of the area during the prescribed burn.
- ◆ The relocation period will be three nights, beginning the night before the fire, to allow time for smoke to clear from the air.
- ◆ People who wish to relocate are encouraged to call (831) 393-1284 or 1-800-852-9699 to register for relocation. The Army would prefer to have you register now, even if you decide later that you don't want to leave the area during the fire. This is better than a last-minute decision to relocate, leaving everybody scrambling to complete the necessary paperwork.
- ◆ The Army will launch an extensive publicity program to inform the community when the fire will occur, and will notify people of their option to relocate during the fire.

Resumen condensado...

- ◆ Sobre la base de los comentarios recibidos, el Ejército llegó a la conclusión que en general, la comunidad acepta el plan, aunque algunos ciudadanos siguen oponiéndose a las quemas prescritas y a la detonación de material bélico y explosivos en el lugar.
- ◆ En respuesta a las inquietudes de la población, el Ejército ha preparado planes detallados para reducir el humo minimizar las emisiones y controlar los incendios.
- ◆ El Ejército, trabajando en forma conjunta con las agencias reguladoras, realizó un estudio sobre las probables emisiones al aire provenientes de un incendio programado en los Campos de Tiro 43-48. De acuerdo con este estudio, las agencias estiman que en esencia, un incendio en el Fuerte Ord equivaldría a una quema prescrita realizada en cualquier otro terreno, con una vegetación de naturaleza comparable a la de esta región. Todas las emisiones provenientes de una detonación incidental de material bélico o explosivos están muy por debajo de los niveles de seguridad para la protección de la salud establecidos por la normativa reguladora.
- ◆ Se están tomando medidas para minimizar la cantidad de humo que inhalarán los vecinos del lugar. La exposición al humo presenta ciertos riesgos para la salud, en especial para aquellas personas que padecen enfermedades respiratorias o una afección cardíaca congestiva.
- ◆ El Ejército procederá al traslado de aquellos residentes del Condado de Monterrey que consideren que el humo será perjudicial para su salud y que prefieran alejarse del área durante la quema prescrita.
- ◆ El incendio sólo durará un día. El período de traslado abarcará tres noches, comenzando la noche previa al incendio. Esto dejará un margen de tiempo suficiente como para que el humo desaparezca del ambiente.
- ◆ Las personas que deseen trasladarse pueden llamar al (831) 393-9186 o al 1-800-852-9699, a fin de registrarse para este traslado. El Ejército prefiere que usted se registre de inmediato, aunque más adelante, usted cambie de parecer y decida quedarse en el área durante el incendio. Es preferible cancelar un traslado que organizarlo a último momento, con lo cual el personal de traslado severía en apuros innecesarios para completar los papeles requeridos.
- ◆ El Ejército lanzará una importante campaña publicitaria para informar a la comunidad la fecha en que comenzará el incendio y avisará a las personas sobre la opción que tienen de trasladarse a otro lugar durante el mismo.

Additional Information About The Cleanup Of Fort Ord

The Army is responsible for ensuring cleanup of the former Fort Ord, but it must do so in a manner that complies with federal and state laws and under the supervision of federal and state environmental regulatory agencies. At Fort Ord, the cleanup is supervised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

To expedite cleanup at Fort Ord, the three regulatory agencies signed an agreement with the Army about how the agencies would manage the program and the manner in which any disagreements would be settled. Under this agreement, each agency has assigned a representative to a Base Cleanup Team (BCT). This team makes the day-to-day management decisions about the cleanup program. When there are disagreements between the agencies, policy-level

managers from each of the agencies meet to resolve differences.

These three regulatory agencies, whose job it is to protect public health and safety, are intimately involved with virtually all of the cleanup decision making at the site. Contacts for each of the participating agencies in Fort Ord's cleanup are listed below.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	
John Chesnutt BCT Member 415-972-3005	Viola Cooper Community Involvement Coordinator 415-972-3243 / 800-231-3075
California Department of Toxic Substances Control	
Rizgar Ghazi BCT Member 916-255-3610	Linda Janssen Public Participation Specialist 916-255-6683

United States Army—Presidio of Monterey	
Gail Youngblood BCT Member 831-242-7924	Kevin Siemann Ordnance & Explosives Program Manager 831-242-7919
Lyle Shurtleff Community Relations 831-393-9691	Melissa Hlebasko Community Relations Program Coordinator 831-393-1284 / 800-852-9699
California Regional Water Quality Control Board	
Grant Himebaugh, BCT Member 805-542-4636	

Information Repositories
◆ Fort Ord Administrative Record ◆ Seaside Library ◆ Ord Military Community Library ◆ California State University, Monterey Bay Library
For assistance in finding information of interest to you please contact Tina Fischl at: 831-393-9186 or write to Community Relations, P.O. Box 5004, Presidio of Monterey, CA 93944-5004
Fort Ord Cleanup Website
www.FortOrdCleanup.com

A Summary of What You'll Find Inside...

- ◆ The Army, after extensive public comment, and with the concurrence of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has decided to proceed with its proposed plan for cleanup of ordnance and explosives at Ranges 43-48, Range 30A, and OE-16 at the former Fort Ord.
- ◆ These sites were used as firing ranges until 1994, as part of training soldiers to use artillery and explosives. Some unexploded ordnance and explosives remain on this land.
- ◆ The agencies concluded that the presence of the ordnance and explosives on this land pose an imminent threat to the community, even though the areas are heavily fenced, justifying taking immediate action rather than waiting for completion of an overall cleanup study that will not be done until 2005.
- ◆ The agencies also concluded that the plan complies with federal and state regulations.
- ◆ The Army's cleanup program includes: (1) Using prescribed burns—carefully controlled fires—to clear the vegetation so that workers can see where they are walking, so they don't accidentally trigger explosive items that could maim or kill; (2) Detecting the ordnance and explosives; and (3) When explosive items are found, covering them with material that will reduce fragmentation and air emissions, and detonating them in place, using an explosive charge.
- ◆ The Army will begin the program with a prescribed burn on Ranges 43-48 sometime this fall. Cleanup of Range 30A and site OE-16 will begin in 2003.
- ◆ Ranges 43-48 cover approximately 500 acres of land. Once the site is cleaned up, 25 acres of the land will be available for development. The remainder of the land will remain habitat preserve.
- ◆ The Army conducted an extensive community involvement process including four community bulletins (you are reading #4), symposia, community involvement workshops, public meetings, meetings with representatives of local agencies, and a formal public comment period for the Proposed Plan.
- ◆ Based on the comments received, the Army concludes that the community is generally accepting of the plan, although some citizens continue to oppose prescribed burns and detonation in place of ordnance and explosives.

[Summary continues on inside back cover.]

Resumen condensado...

- ◆ El Ejército, tras un comentario público de gran alcance, y con la concurrencia de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos y el Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas de California, ha decidido proceder con el plan que había propuesto para la limpieza de material bélico y explosivos en los Campos de Tiro 43-48, en el Campo de Tiro 30A y en el Sector OE-16, situados en el antiguo Fuerte Ord.
- ◆ Estos sitios sirvieron como campos de tiro hasta 1994, y como parte de entrenamiento para que los soldados utilizaran la artillería y los explosivos. Algunos explosivos y materiales bélicos que no han detonado permanecen en estos terrenos; asimismo hay una cantidad considerable de chatarra y desechos.
- ◆ Las agencias llegaron a la conclusión que la presencia de material bélico y explosivos en estos terrenos representa una amenaza inminente para la comunidad, incluso en las áreas protegidas por un cercado de vallado sólido. Por lo tanto, esto justifica actuar de inmediato en lugar de esperar a que se complete el estudio de limpieza general, que no terminará hasta el año 2005.
- ◆ Las agencias también decidieron que el plan cumple con la normatividad federal y estatal.
- ◆ El programa de limpieza del Ejército incluye: (1) El uso de quemazones prescriptas - incendios cuidadosamente controlados- para remover la maleza; así los trabajadores podrán ver el terreno por el que caminan, sin detonar explosivos que podrían mutilarlos o terminar con sus vidas; (2) al encontrar explosivos, cubrirlos con otros materiales que reduzcan la fragmentación y las emisiones en el aire, y detonarlos en el lugar, usando una carga explosiva; y (3) detectar y desechar el material bélico y los explosivos, la chatarra y otros desperdicios.
- ◆ El Ejército comenzará el programa con una quema zon prescripta en los Campos de Tiro 43-48, en una fecha a determinar durante éste otoño. La limpieza del Campo de Tiro 30A y del sector OE-16 se iniciará en 2003.
- ◆ Los Campos de Tiro 43-48 cubren una superficie de aproximadamente 500 acres. Una vez que se haya limpiado la zona, 11 acres del terreno quedarán disponibles para su urbanización. El resto se entregará ala oficina de uso de Tierras de los Estados Unidos, la cual destinará esta área para preservación de la vida silvestre.
- ◆ El Ejército implementó un proceso intensivo de participación comunitaria para que la población tomara parte en este proyecto. Éste proceso incluye cuatro boletines para la comunidad (usted está leyendo el número 4), simposios, talleres de participación comunitaria, reuniones públicas, asambleas con los representantes de las agencias locales, y un período de debates públicos.

Para obtener una copia completa del boletin de la comunidad #4, contacte (800) 852-9699.

Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup
Community Relations
P.O. Box 5004
Presidio of Monterey, CA 93944-5004

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